

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 3-15 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of Claim 3 and Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the features of Claim 10 so that Claims 1 and 9 now contain allowable subject matter. Claims 3 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 1 has also been amended to improve consistency with Claim 9, and Claim 9 has been additionally amended in order to clarify this claim. No subject matter has been added.

On page 5 of the Office Action, numbered paragraph 3 identifies Claims 3 and 10 as allowable if written in independent form.

In the light of the above-mentioned amendments, the rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) on page 3 of the Office Action is rendered moot.

The case is believed to be in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. If there is any issue that may be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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